

Superfund Remedial Program Review: Update on Implementation of Special Account Actions

Background:

- In response to budget reductions over the past several fiscal years, the Superfund remedial program initiated a comprehensive review to evaluate the efficiency of current cleanup processes and use of program resources.
- An action plan was developed as a result of the review, and identified short- and long-term activities to be undertaken to maintain an effective cleanup program under budgetary constraints.
- Leveraging special account resources was a component of the review and action plan.
- In July 2013, the Special Accounts Senior Management Committee (SASMC) discussed the proposed actions for special accounts under the program review.
- The following provides an update on the activities that have been done to implement those actions specific to special accounts identified in v1.0 of the action plan issued November 2013.

Status of Superfund Program Review Actions for Special Accounts:

Action: Use of special accounts for oversight costs

- A. Emphasize the use of special accounts for payroll associated with oversight activities as part of the site-specific charging fact sheet under development.
 - Status: Complete. Fact sheet issued September 2013.
- B. Encourage regions to use special account dollars for oversight activities through a memorandum from the OSRTI OD (on behalf of the SASMC) to regional Superfund Division Directors, Regional Counsel, and Assistant Regional Administrators.
 - Status: Underway. Draft memo developed and reviewed by regional program, legal, and finance staff. SASMC staff are addressing comments.
- C. Modify notification requirements so that regions are no longer required to notify HQ if they will be depositing funds in a special account where the original agreement is silent on special accounts.
 - Status: Complete. Memo revising notification requirements was issued September 2013.

Action: Close low balance special accounts

Regional Superfund Division Directors should annually review open special accounts with less than \$25,000 available for potential closure, in coordination with their review of special accounts with more than \$1 million available or special accounts with no obligation or disbursement activity in the past 5 years.

- Status: Underway. OSRTI will update the Special Accounts Data Monitoring Plan to include an annual review by regional SF Division Directors of accounts with less than \$25K available for possible closure. OSRTI will finalize the updated Data Monitoring Plan by the end of 2nd quarter FY 2014.

Other Issues from the Special Accounts Subgroup:

- Re-evaluate use of special accounts for the Contract Lab Program.
 - Status: FY 2013 pilot conducted and proposal presented to SASMC for application of pilot process to all regions.
- Depositing payments into a special account after reclassification.
 - Discussed in oversight memo currently under development.
- Use of the WQ bulk funding code with special account funds.
 - Will be incorporated in the FY 2014 Action Code Dictionary.
- Providing an assurance of future funding for a site if funds are reclassified/transferred from an account.
 - On hold, pending other actions identified in the Superfund Program Review.

Next Steps

- OSRTI will continue to work with the SASMC on activities currently underway.